

**ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY.** By R. W. D. Turner, O.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.P.E. (Pp. viii + 155; figs. 177. 20s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1963.

THIS book is a collection of articles on "Clinical Electrocardiography in General Practice" published by the author in the *Practitioner* in 1962. It is intended for those who wish to learn some of the elementary principles of a complicated subject. The value and limitations of the electrocardiographic technique are stressed. The illustrations are excellent and the text makes interesting reading and contains important clinical data. There is a section on vectorcardiography, although it is clear that the author relies on the unipolar conception for interpretation of tracings. This book can be recommended to all for general reading, and its cheap price should assure a wide circulation.

E. F.

**GUIDE TO PSYCHIATRY.** By Myre Sim. (Pp. ix + 868. 55s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1963.

GUIDE books like small scale maps are often of limited value to the enquiring traveller. Their tendency to eulogise may encourage many to go on but, if the traveller is disappointed, he may feel that the territory is not worth re-visiting. There are exceptions to this where the reliable guide book stimulates the reader to further exploration.

Dr. Myre Sim's "Guide to Psychiatry" is such an exception. He has presented a wealth of factual and up-to-date information that will satisfy many and stimulate others to begin further exploration in depth. Indeed, he encourages this in his preface, and provides a forty-seven page bibliography for the purpose. This is not, of course, a textbook of psychiatry, and so the author's views are generally not too obtrusive, but there are exceptions. The frequent introduction of an historical note helps to put the material into perspective so that what is really new can be readily discerned. Psychosomatic medicine is dealt with more fully than in most comprehensive books, and in that chapter, as elsewhere, theories of causation put forward by various authors are summarised with reference to source material. Psycho-analytic interpretation of symptomatology takes precedence over alternative explanations.

Traditional psychology is dealt with in eighteen pages, and psychopathology in sixty-five. The chapter on social psychiatry will provide a very useful summary for examination candidates, but in this as in other chapters, the author's exhortation to refer to the literature should be noted. In the chapter on psycho-pharmacology and drug therapy, the metric system of dosage is used, and the preparations are referred to by their chemical descriptions and not by their trade names.

The English and Scottish Mental Health Acts are briefly summarised, but there is no reference to the Mental Health Act (Northern Ireland), 1961.

In the reviewer's opinion Dr. Sim's book is more suitable for postgraduates than undergraduates. The general physician will find in it useful compendium and guide to that part of medicine which is becoming more widely recognised as an integral part of his work.

J. G. G.

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD, NORMAL AND ABNORMAL.** By R. S. Illingworth, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H. (Pp. viii + 318. 30s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1963.

It is often considered that developmental tests in infancy are of little value in assessing a child's future development. From his early training with Gisell and his long experience of this work in Sheffield, Professor Illingworth has selected a series of tests which, if used in conjunction with a full history and neurological examination, will predict mental retardation with a high degree of accuracy. The tests used are described in detail both for normal and abnormal children and are well illustrated with many excellent photographs. The book is written with the author's usual clarity and will be essential to all those who are involved in the assessment of children's abilities.

C. M. B. F.